

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9524

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: AUGUST 11 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL LINKS ANTI-TENG
CAMPAIGN WITH EARTHQUAKE RELIEF.

REF: (A) PEKING 1572 (B) HONG KONG 8790

1. IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ACTIVITIES
FROM DIVERTING NATIONAL ATTENTION FROM THE ANTI-TENG CAM-
PAIGN, THE EDITORS OF PEOPLE'S DAILY HAVE EXHORTED THE COUNTRY
TO "DEEPEN THE CRITICISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY REVISIONIST LINE" IN AN AUGUST 11 EDITORIAL.
ENTITLED "DEEPEN THE CRITICISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING IN ANTI-
QUAKE RELIEF WORK". THE EDITORIAL PRAISED THE HEROIC EFFORTS
OF THE PEOPLE, CADRES, AND PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY SOLDIERS
IN ORGANIZING AND CARRYING OUT RELIEF FOR THE STRIKEN AREA.
THE EDITORIAL HELD UP THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE TANGSHAN-FENGNNAN AREA IN STRIVING TO OVERCOME THE DISAS-
TROUS EFFECTS OF THE QUAKE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE CHINESE
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PEOPLE WILL NEVER SUCCUMB TO ACUTE CLASS STRUGGLE AND NATURAL

CALAMITIES. RELYING ON CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE AND "TAKING CLASS STRUGGLE AS THE KEY LINK", THE PEOPLE OF THE AFFECTED AREA ARE NOW UNITED IN A "REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE" DETERMINED TO "TRIUMPH OVER NATURE." REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT, AS OPPOSED TO MATERIAL FACTORS, WILL BE THE PRIMARY MOTIF FOR RECONSTRUCTION.

2. HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL WARNS THAT "FHIEF OF OPPORTUNIST LINES" IN THE PARTY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO USE NATURAL DISASTERS TO DIVERT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EVERS INCE THE PRC EAS ESTABLISHED IN 1949. A CASE IN POINT, THE EDITORIAL AGRUES, IS TENG HSIAO-PING'S AND LIU SHAO-CHI'S EARLY 1960'S EFFORTS TO TAKE THE DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD, AS AN EXCUSE FOR TEMPERING POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TENG HSIAO-PING'S "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY REVISIONIST LINE" MUST CONTINUE AND BE LINKED WITH THE "RE- VOLUTIONARY ACTIONS OF MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE" EN- GAGED IN RELIEF WORK.

3. COMING ON THE HEELS OF THE RE-EMERGENCE OF KEY PROVINCIAL LEADERS, INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL CCP FIRST SECRETARIES OF FUKIEN AND KIANGSU, THE EDITORIALS AND AN AUGUST RED FLAG ARTICLE BY PI SHEN MUST BE SEEN AS AN EXPLICIT WARNING TO MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE LEADERSHIP WHO MAY BE ARGUING THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN MUST BE SECOND TO QUAKE RELIEF OPERATIONS. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME CONCERN ON THE PART OF PROMOTERS OF THE CAMPAIGN THAT WITH NATIONAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON HOPEI, PROVINCIAL LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER POSTER ATTACK, AND POSSIBLY TARGETED BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS FOR REMOVAL, WILL BE ABLE TO RE-ASSERT THEIR AUTHORITY. NEVERTHLESS REFERENCES TO THE "SABOTAGE ACTIVITES OF CLASS ENEMIES" IN RECENT PROVINCIAL BORADCSATS(WHICH MAY BE THE RESULT OF CENTRAL DOCUMENT NO. 12 REF A) POINT TO AN INCREASED SENSE OF ONCERN THAT THE UNCERTAIN CAMPAIGN ATMOSHPERE AND A GENERAL UN- WILLINGNESS TO MAKE DECISIONS (REF B) HAVE STIMULATED FACTIONAL DISPUTES, WORKER SLOWDOWNS, AND A RISE IN CRIME. SUCH CONCERN MAY DEVELOP INTO A PERSUASIVE ARGUEMENT FOR SUB- DUING CAMPAIGN ACTIVIES TO RESTORE PARTY CONTROL OVER A VOLATILE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES.

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